THE SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF HAMILTON AND DISTRICT

TRENDS AND FORECASTS

Hamilton-Wentworth

Volume I: Issue 1

July, 1989

91-00538/

REVISED REGIONAL POPULATION FORECASTS NOW AVAILABLE

The Regional Planning Department has revised its 1981 population projections and the results point to a greater degree of growth than originally anticipated. The 1981 analysis projected a Regional population of 445,000 by 2001. The new analysis has increased this projection to 472,000.

The upwards revision is primarily due to better than anticipated migration rates. The 1981 projection was done at a time when the Region and the Province of Ontario were losing population as a result of increased migration to the West. As the Western economy cooled, these migration patterns reversed and by 1984, more people were coming into the Region than were leaving.

The upwards revision in the projections have affected the population of all the municipalities with the exception of Ancaster. In that municipality, the projection was decreased slightly as a result of changes in the planned development of Meadowland on the former Allarco lands.

Municipality	Original Projection 2001	Revised Projection 2001
Hamilton	302,000	312,500
Dundas	20,000	21,800
Stoney Creek	53,000	60,000
Flamborough	29,500	34,400
Ancaster	32,000	31,400
Glanbrook	9,000	11,400

1986 CENSUS RESULTS: JOB LOSSES FOR MALES

Job growth between 1981 and 1986 was concentrated exclusively among females in Hamilton-Wentworth. The size of the employed male labour force actually decreased by 1.5% while the employed female labour force increased by 20.9%.

Faster labour force growth among females was also a Provincial trend although job losses among males were not.

EMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE

		1981	1986	Change %
Hamilton-Wentworth				
	Males	117,170	115,385	- 1.5
	Females	79,055	95,625	+ 20.9
Ontario				
	Males	2,456,705	2,589,430	+ 5.4
	Females	1,748,280	1,995,720	+ 14.1

As demonstrated below, this local shift was the result of two occupational trends:-

1. A concentration of males in occupations which showed losses between 1981 and 1986.
2. A concentration of females in most of the occupations which showed gains between 1981 and 1986.

	Change in No. of Jobs	Female Share %
Managerial/Administrative Service	+ 4460	48.5
Artistic, Literary, Recreational	+ 2280	87.9
Sales	+ 1700	82.6
Medicine and Health	+ 1570	97.1
Teaching	+ 875	84.0
Clerical	+ 665	71.4
Farming	645	45.7
Construction	440	34.1
Product fabricating, assembly and repair	- 3175	5.8
Machining	- 2635	14.4

The Census results pertaining to labour force participation rates suggests that the job growth among females was concentrated among married women. As presented below, the participation rate for all females increased by 3.7 percentage points while the corresponding figure for married females was 4.7. The participation rates for males showed decreases.

Hamilton-Wentworth

	1981	1986	Change
Female Participation Rate	51.4	55.1	+ 3.7
Married Female Participation Rate	50.8	55.5	+ 4.7
Male Participation Rate	78.7	76.1	- 2.6
Married Male Participation Rate	84.0	79.5	- 4.5

Among the various analysts who are responsible for monitoring employment trends in the Region, there is a general consensus that this trend has continued since 1986. Although statistics are not available for this period, there is also a general perception that much of this job growth has been concentrated at the lower end of the wage spectrum.

Implications

A rapid increase in the number of two-income families in the Region

Much of this "extra" family income has probably been used to adjust to escalating housing prices, particularly among younger families. The ongoing growth in the number of two-income families will continue to impact on the demand for both the private and the public sector goods and service in a number of areas -

1) extended hours
2) demand for child care
3) demand for "convenience" items
4) demand for "domestic" services

A reduction in the rate and type of Regional income growth

As job creation focuses increasingly upon occupations at the lower end of the wage spectrum, the relationship between employment growth and "Regional wealth" begins to moderate. Each added job contributes a smaller increment to the total income of the Region. With respect to its affect upon some sectors, this impact can be further moderated if a significant proportion of this "new" income is being used, as expected, to cover the additional housing costs of young families.

A fundamental change in the distribution of family incomes in the Region

While the proportion of families earning less than 14,999 decreased from 23.0% to 14.4%, the proportion earning 40,000 or more increased dramatically from 14.3% to 40.4%. This sizeable increase at the higher income end is largely attributable to the growth of two-income families.

During the same period, the proportion of families defined by Statistics Canada as "low income" remained relatively unchanged increasing from 14.0 to 14.4 percent. Consequently, the first half of this decade saw little change in the incidence of poverty in the Region but there was a dramatic increase in the proportion of families at the higher end of the income continuum. The "middle-class" thinned out.